

Taken from Moore's History of Alabama, Page 320

Apparently the first school established on Alabama soil was founded by John Pierce at the Boat Yard, on Lake Tensaw in 1799.

His "blab school" functioned in a rude long cabin with furniture to match. Within its log walls, seated upon puncheon benches, Alabama's first "pupils" - French, Spanish, Indian, American, and a variety of amalgamations - began to learn how to read, write and "Cipher".

Pierce is described as a "typical Connecticut Yankee".

Mrs. Jones - The above is sent in accordance with your telephone request to Mr. Griggs.

Isabel Pope

File
13

SUPPLEMENT

JAN 15 1940

Mary Pride Jones
Mobile, Ala

January 10, 1940
Mobile County

MOBILE
NOTES, CORRECTIONS, AND ADDITIONS

ALABAMA STATE DOCKS

Bibliography: A visit to the Docks and an interview with Mr. Alvarez, Publicity Dept., and with his private Secretary, Miss Harriet Black . Both have been employed there many years and informed on the great expansion there. Mr. Alvarez stated that these are "our Docks" and that he is anxious that we all know about it first-hand. He gave an hour or more, of his time, in explaining facts, and statistics and volunteered to put the State Director, Miss Miles, on the mailing list for the Docks publication "The Port of Mobile."

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

Feb. 23, 1940
Mobile County

MOBILE'S HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

In view of the costly and energetic bid Alabama and Mobile are making for a greater share of the nation's tourist trade and the desire to perpetuate reminders of our own heritage, the rich history of Mobile should be familiar to every literate individual in this community. Alabama has more than a normal state's share of climatic, historic, scenic and romantic attractions, and in these aesthetic resources, Mobile is the wealthiest spot in Alabama. The Historic Mobile Preservation Society is one of the most important forces at work in an effort to perpetuate our traditions in memory, and to familiarize its citizens with the city's general history. In another worthwhile plan to increase interest, locally and nationally, in the old homes of Mobile, the Society will sponsor the second annual tour of historical homes, on March 8, through the 16th. As evidence of increased interest in the plan, there will be this year, and additional five beautiful homes opened to the public. Young women in period costume will welcome the visitors to the homes.

The Society will have an historic tea on March 23, at the stately old home of Mrs. Joel W. Goldsby, at 452 Government street. This house was at one time, occupied by Admiral Buchanan, C.S.A. one of our two Confederate Admirals. It will also be recalled that the home was one of the headquarters for the Federal Army after the fall of Mobile during the war between the states.

Bibliography: Personal observation and comments of the Press and Register
February 13--19th, 1940.

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

March 1st, 1940
Mobile County.

MOBILE

PIERS The Alabama State Docks and Terminals owns and operates three piers A, B, and C; a Bulk Material Dock with tipple; a Cold Storage and Fruit Terminal with marginal wharf. The Alabama State Docks and Terminals has a total of twenty one ship berths.

RAILROAD DOCKS The Mobile & Ohio railroad operates four piers; the Southern Railway operates two piers; and the two companies operate jointly two piers. These are on the Municipal Wharves numbered from 1 through 8 and are leased by the Port to the railroads. Piers 1 & 2 used exclusively by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad; pier #3 used by the M & O and by the Southern; piers 4 and 5 used by the Southern; pier #6 by the M & O and by the Southern; 7 & 8 used by the M & O. Railroad.

THE TURNER TERMINALS owns and operates two piers at foot of Maryland street Choctaw Point.

THE GULF, MOBILE, AND NORTHERN Railroad uses the Mobile Channel, harbor and Choctaw Point.

THE LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD operates a marginal wharf running from Government street to Monroe street They own river frontage from a little below Palmetto street to below Charleston street which they use for coaling small river vessels.

ALL PIERS & WHARVES are used by the forty five large steamship lines which regularly serve the Port of Mobile. There is a total of ten railroad wharves and piers.

SWIMMING Spring Hill, Chickasaw, Magazine Point, Whistler, Dauphin and Prichard still in operation but in process of removal to be replaced by buses

SWIMMING CRYSTAL POOL open to public in warm months. Bathing suits rented. On Cedar Point off Arlington. Y.M.C.A. indoor pool, Government & Conception. Davis Ave, Playground for Negroes, outdoor pool, 1255 Davis Ave.

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

March 1, 1940
Mobile County.

MOBILE (continued)

RIDING Mobile Riding Club, on Cedar Point Road, at Fairgrounds. Horses and instruction \$1.00 per hour.

MOBILE REGISTER Moved to the Bedsole Building in 1932.

3. CLITHERAL HOUSE Built in early 1830's on the west side of the street, is three stories in front with a two story wing in the rear. It is a brick structure, with a bay window on the left side which reaches to the second story and has on the right and left side two small wooden balconies. The main entrance is under the arched carriage drive and just above is a narrow window. This and the entrance door are the only openings on the entire three stories on the left of the building. The ell or two story building in the has wooden porches on first and second floor. On the left side a solid brick wall separates it from the Christ Church grounds.

5 CHRIST CHURCH Started in 1838 and completed in 1840. The building is rectangular in plan, of brick stuccoed over with cement and marked off in stone joints. There is a recessed porch on the front or entrance, and two massive brick columns at the top of a broad flight of stone steps. There are two entrances, the main having heavy double doors, back of which are inside shutters. A wrought iron picket fence on a ^{stone} concrete curb extends along the Church street and Saint Emmanuel street side, with two double wrought iron gates, one opening onto the center and having flag stone walks. A solid eight foot brick wall separates the grounds from the next lot.

17 GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Is on the north side of the street, and was built in 1837. The structure is of brick, stuccoed over and painted white is rectangular and has a recessed vestibule on the front, in which are two fluted columns, at the top of wide stone steps. The Burgett Memorial Church School Building was built in 1904 and adjoins the Church building at the rear. There three entrances, the center or main entrance having tall double doors

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

March 1, 1940
Mobile, County.

MOBILE (continued)

with solid panels. Across the front of the lot and on the right street side is a wrought iron fence with spearhead.-

ACKER HOUSE Is located on the south side of the street and is a one story frame house with a basement. It is painted white and is a "raised cottage" set up on brick piers which are about seven feet from the ground. A wooden gallery runs across the front and the steps are at the extreme left of the house.

Handwritten notes:
How to get to the house...
See map...

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

March 8, 1940
Mobile County.

GUIDE SERVICE FOR MOBILE VISITORS

Visitors desiring trained guides for sight seeing while in Mobile, may obtain them through the Azalea Trail Headquarters, Chamber of Commerce Building, southwest corner of Royal and Saint Francis Streets, also the six weeks of the season. Also through the tourist bureau of the Mobile Motor Club throughout the year, at 34 North Royal street .

The Azalea Trail guide fees are nominal, and if preferable they will drive the tourists' cars. Before the opening of the Trail each year young guide-conductors, who are selected from prominent Mobile families, are carefully trained in the art of showing visitors over the City.

Bibliography: Personal knoweldge.

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile Ala.

March 15, 1940
Mobile County.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS AROUND MOBILE

Exactly centered on top of an Indian mound on the Fort Morgan Road is the grave of a soldier. Enclosing it is an antique iron fence, the gate of which is padlocked. An old handsomely engraved brass plate identifies the grave as that of Captain William H. Wallace. It is commonly believed that it is the grave of one of General Jackson's officers, but there is no clue to his real identity. The grave is near the Postoffice Gasque in Baldwin County.

Bibliography: The Mobile Register March 3, 1940

Miss Leila Aunspaugh, Reference Librarian

MOBILE PLANTS IN ENGLAND

Mobile plants may still be seen in London at Fothergill's Gardens. The famous naturalist John and his son William Bartram are responsible. John Bartram received a commission from Dr. Fothergill to furnish him with seeds and specimens of wild and cultivated plants which grew in America. John toured the Northern states, Florida, and the Carolinas and William came to Mobile in 1777 where he was the guest of the English commandant Major Robert Farmer. He took back to his home a large shipment of specimens which were shipped from Philadelphia. The Spanish captured the ship so that it was several months before the cases reached London. Then it was found that mice had made nests in the boxes and that small insects had eaten many of the seeds. From that time William Bartram wrapped all of his specimens in tobacco leaves. His books are the highest authority on botany.

Bibliography: Mobile Register March 10, 1940

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

February 9, 1940
Mobile County

MOBILE'S CONTINUED EXPANSION IN FACTS AND FIGURES

That Mobile continues her era of expansion is seen in figures released Friday, January 2, 1940, which showed a substantial increase in building permits and postal receipts over those of 1939.

Value of building permits issued by the City Building Inspector for January this year showed an increase of \$374,699 over that of January last year. The sixty nine permits issued in January 1940 were three times as many as were issued for the same period 1939.

Postal receipts at the Mobile Post Office for January 1940 were up \$1,388,25 above those for the corresponding month in 1939.

Most of the construction work done in January was in the new buildings group, showing a valuation of \$404,200, while thirty two repair jobs cost \$23,399 and one commercial job called for an expenditure of \$2,000.

Expansion of the Alumina Works of the Aluminum Company of America in Mobile has been announced as a part of a \$30,000,000 program to enlarge the Company's production facilities. Duncan Smith, Superintendent of the Mobile plant, has not been advised of the extent of expansion here but assumed that it would mean enlargement of the present facilities which are operating at full capacity.

The local plant should be included in the new expansion is significant as the local works have already expanded once since operations were begun in 1933. The Mobile Alumina Works is an important link in the Company's operations, the only other plant being in East St. Louis, Ills. Since the new expansion plans a bauxite plant in

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

Feb. 9, 1940
Mobile County.

Dutch Guina and the acquisition of more ore carrying vessels
it is believed that greater quantities of ore will pass through
this Port and a great part of it will be processed in the Mobile
plant.

Bibliography: Mobile Register, Jan 30, 1940

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Mary Pride Jones
City Hall
Mobile Ala.

Feb.16,1940
Mobile County.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MOBILE.

NEW RADIO IS INSTALLED AT AIRPORT

Installation of a short wave radio station at the Bates Field office of National Air Lines is announced by Don Stremmel, local traffic manager for the company. The station is designated by the call letters WMAP. It is an 80 watt, three frequency transmitting outfit operating on 5,652, 4,335, and 2,922 kilocycles. The station will be used in obtaining reservations at other points for passengers, and for giving planes weather reports. The station equipment is strong enough to talk with any other stations on the line, as well as with planes in the air and on the ground.

Bibliography: Mobile Register Feb.15,1940

Another Memorial Marker

A small slice of the right of way near Eight-Mile Creek, has been turned over by the Mobile County Commission to the Mobile Baptist Association as a site for erection of a monument. The monument will be as a memorial to the first Baptist Church in this section of Alabama—a Church organized more than one hundred and thirty years ago. It will be placed about two hundred yards south of the creek.

Bibliography: Mobile Register Feb.13,1940

HIGH POINT ON MOBILE BAY

The highest point on the coast between Maine and Texas is located on Mobile Bay near Fairhope on the Eastern shore.

Bibliography: Riviera Review, Jan.1930

The First Submarine

The first submarine ever used for war purposes was built in Mobile and used in the civil war.

Bibliography: Riviera Review, June 28,1928.

Mary Pride Jones
 City Hall,
 Mobile, Ala.

Feb. 16, 1940
 Mobile County.

THE First Bay Boat

The first steam boat to make the "over the Bay" trip between Mobile and the Eastern shore, ran from Blakeley by way of Tensaw. She was built in the very earliest days of steamboating and is said to have been so top-heavy that, to keep her from turning over, a huge cypress log was fastened to her side to serve as an out-rigger. Her speed-four miles per hour.

Bibliography: Mobile Register, Feb. 12, 1940

City's New Hotel Named for Admiral Semmes

Mobile's new hotel, located at the southwest corner of Government Street at Joachim, will be called "The Admiral Semmes". Announcement of the naming of the hostelry for Mobile's great Confederate sea lord, Raphael Semmes, was made by the owners of the property. It was also stated that the twelve story, two hundred and fifty room, air-conditioned structure would be completed and the building open and ready for use by November or December. The Admiral Semmes will be operated by the National Hotel Company of Galveston.

Bibliography: The Mobile Press, Feb. 16, 1940

Mobile's Fair Women

It is related that the Marquis de la Fayette on his visit to Mobile in the year 1825 said that this city had the fairest women he had seen in the United States.

Riviera Review June 28, 1928

Mary Fride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

March 21, 1940
Mobile County

MOBILE

Bankhead Tunnel Tube Launching

The last of the huge concrete and steel sections of the Mobile River traffic tunnel was launched on Monday March 18, 1940 while crowds, the Governor of the State, and other notables looked on. The three hundred foot section weighing seven hundred tons was launched from Pinto Island when the rope was cut by Col. Richard Park, U.S. District Engineer. A number of engineers and engineering students from the University of Alabama came for the ceremonies and launching. Although this tube was the last of the seven used in the tunnel, it is section four and will lie in the middle of the stream and directly below the ship channel. The Bankhead Tunnel will be completed June first but will not be opened to the public until thirty days later. It is estimated to have cost \$4,000,000.

Bibliography: Mobile Register March 19, 1940.

Population Gains Noted for Mobile

Population gains are noted for Mobile in the new City Directory just being distributed by R.L. Polk and Company. The population increased 4,425 in 1939 which would give the City a total population of 107,156. The directory indicates home ownership in its listings as well as designation of the location of telephones and identification of white and colored persons.

Bibliography: Mobile Register March 19, 1940

THE New Yacht Club

The new Yacht Club House is nearing completion. It is a two story frame building and is located on the west bank of Mobile Bay about one thousand feet north of the Dog River bridge. The Club has asked permission

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

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March 21, 1940
Mobile County

and has submitted plans to the United States Army Engineers for building a pile and timber wharf which would be eight feet wide and would extend two hundred feet into the Bay from a mean low water line. The end of the wharf would be in six feet of water. The Yacht Club will be opened with an informal stag party for members only on March 27th. An opening dance is scheduled for Saturday March 30th. The Regatta opening date will be for the week-end of April 13th. Seven other yacht clubs, members of the Gulf Yachting Association, will participate.

Bibliography: Mobile Press Mar. 19, 1940

United States Condemns Properties for Air Depot

The U.S. Government on Tuesday, March 19, 1940 assumed ownership of a tract of 1,196,048 acres of land south of Arlington by court action. In ordering condemnation proceedings the Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring said it was necessary to have immediate possession for military purposes. While the property is now officially in the hands of the War Department, the construction quartermaster for the Depot said that it will be thirty days before actual construction would be begun. The tract consists of two hundred and twenty parcels, one hundred and forty six being individually owned, many home owners having lived there for a lifetime. No time limit was mentioned for evacuation of the homes and property. The sum allocated, does not include Bates Field, Airport which has been given until December 31, 1940 to vacate. All private and public highways, avenues and streets within the boundaries of the lands condemned are taken at an estimated value of \$1.00.

Bibliography: Mobile Register March 20, 1940

An interesting story is being told by local historians in regard to the site of the new Air Depot. The story goes that back in the early 1700's

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

March 21, 1940
Mobile County

MOBILE

WHEN Mobile was in its infancy, one of her founders, Sieur de Bienville maintained a home on the site of the army depot. The place, a large brick house with spacious grounds, lined with cedar trees, was described as "forte, belle maison, avec un jardin". It is said that Bienville was so attached to the place that he retained it for a home even after the capital of the Louisiana Province, of which he was governor for the French Empire, had been moved to New Orleans. Some authorities on historic Mobile claim that fragments of the residence remain in the form of mortar and crumbled brick, but it is generally thought that the actual site of the homestead is now covered with waters of the Bay, which have washed down that portion of the bluff on which the house stood.

Bibliography: The Mobile Press, March 20, 1940

CHRIST CHURCH ON AZALEA TRAIL

A valuable attraction of historic value is the addition of Christ Church to the 1939 Azalea Trail, it being open to the public from ten o'clock in the mornings until four thirty in the afternoon. This Church was built in 1840, and is the oldest Protestant Church in Mobile. Recently the grounds have been beautified with gift shrubbery and azaleas - some as memorials. Visitors will be guided through the buildings by one of the communicants who will tell them of its history.

Personal Knowledge.

Name of Dauphin Island Bridge

Naming the proposed Dauphin Island Bridge for the late Commissioner Richard V. Taylor has been urged by the local press, and endorsed by various civic groups and individuals of Mobile. Mr. Taylor worked untiringly to find means of financing the bridge, the building of which was one

Mary Pride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala

March 21, 1940
Mobile County

MOBILE

of his fondest dreams.

Bibliography: Mobile Register, March 21, 1940

Azalea Legend

An interesting legend was told in this City a few days ago by an old resident, who is now living in Athens, Greece, and who was amazed by the growth of the azaleas in his absence of forty four years.

He said that the Chinese philosopher Liang-Fu, called the azalea a tragic flower in spite of its smiling beauty; because it is reputed to have sprung from the tears of blood of the cuckoo, which was formerly a young boy in search of his lost brother, persecuted out of his home by a vicious step-mother.

Bibliography: News & Views from the Azalea City-Frank Gordy, Mobile Register March 21, 1940

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JAN 8 - 1940

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

January 6th, 1939
Mobile, County

ALL-TIME RECORD IN BUILDING ACTIVITY

Construction activity in Mobile, reached an all-time high during the year 1939.

The annual report of Clifford W. Adams, city building inspector, showed that construction work started last year, was almost 300 per cent above the year 1938.

Mr. Adams said: "I thought that report (1938) was pretty good but this past year was sensational."

The city building inspector's office was opened in 1907, and the totals of 1939 were the greatest on record. It must be noted that work financed by the Government, such as the Mobile River tunnel project, the large scale improvements at the State Docks, and school remodeling are not listed. Nor are the amounts in permit applications given for all construction costs, such as air conditioning, much of the finishing ect. Mr. Adams said.

Building figures for 1939 are : \$4,485,190 For 1938 \$1,208,590

A breakdown of the 1939 figures into three classifications show: commercial work, \$2,485,353; new buildings, \$1,697,005 and repairs, \$302,832. The work on commercial work alone, was greater than all building started in 1938.

Personal observation, and
Mobile Register, January 4, 1939

Mary Bride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

Feb. 2, 1940
Mobile County

INTERESTING FACTS IN MOBILE'S HISTORY

GUNSTOCK BAY

The English during the time that they ruled Mobile Bay are said to have called it Gunstock Bay because the outline of the Bay resembles in shape, an old fashioned gunstock.

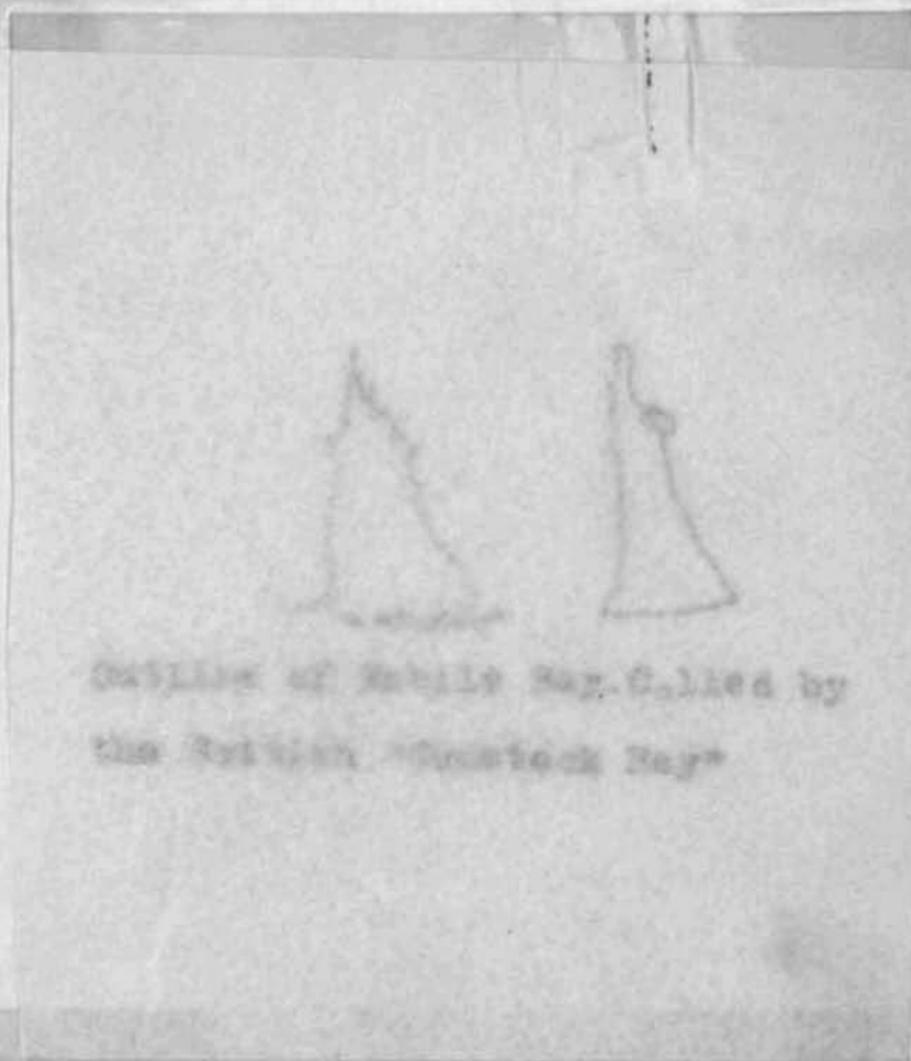
From -- "Let's Talk About Alabama" in Mobile Register, Jan. 28, 1940

Bugler For Jefferson Davis

Martin Drey, aged eighty one years, died in Mobile Jan. 28, 1940

He gained considerable recognition as a cornetist in the famous old Gass Band, and served as bugler at the funeral of Jefferson Davis President of the Confederacy.

From: The Register, January 29, 1940



Outline of Mobile Bay. Called by
the British "Gunstock Bay"

FEB 2 1940

Mary Bride Jones
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

Feb. 2, 1940
Mobile County

INTERESTING FACTS IN MOBILE'S HISTORY

GUNSTOCK BAY

The English during the time that they ruled Mobile Bay are said to have called it Gunstock Bay because the outline of the Bay resembles in shape, an old fashioned gunstock.

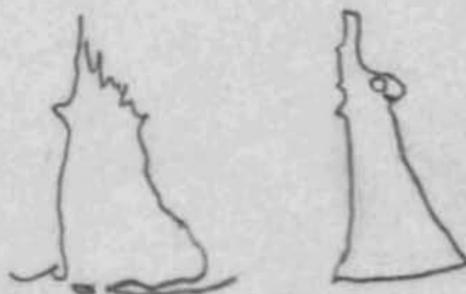
From -- "Let's Talk About Alabama" in Mobile Register, Jan. 28, 1940

Bugler For Jefferson Davis

Martin Drey, aged eighty one years, died in Mobile on Jan. 28, 1940. He gained considerable recognition as a bugler in the famous old Gass Band, and served as bugler for the funeral of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America.

From: The Mobile Register, Jan. 28, 1940

FEB 2 1940



Outline of Mobile Bay. Called by the British "Gunstock Bay"

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DEC 11 1939

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Dec. 8, 1939,

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

THE WASHINGTON SQUARE GARDEN CLUB

This club, with a membership of thirty nine, one honorary, and organized in 1936 occupies an unique place in the garden club life of Mobile. For the most part they are members of families who have always lived on the "The Square", played together there as children and they are now united in one labor of pride and sentiment, - the restoration of Washington Square to its former state of preservation and beauty.

About the time of the World War, when supervised recreation was deemed so necessary for children, and Mobile lacking such facilities, the Square was listed as a public play-ground. This has been continued and now the children from a public school are sent there to play. Thus much damage has been done, the hedges and shrubs are gone, there is little grass, no flowers and branches of the old memorial trees have been broken, so that the place no longer presents the appearance that was formerly planned.

At a meeting of the Mobile Board of Aldermen on Oct. 16, 1859 Mr. A. W. Gordon offered to convey to the city, square #47 of the Favre tract, to be used for the pleasure of the public as a promenade. The grounds were to be cultivated with shrubs and flowers and the tract was to be protected by a fence. The Washington Square Garden Club has petitioned the city to remove the Square from their list of play-grounds, so that they may restore it, and that flowers, hedges, and shrubs, may again beautify it, to this end they work, plan and hope.

Before electricity was used, Washington Square supported with pride, one of eleven towers, with its numerous gas lights, for which Mobile was noted and won the name of "The Eleven Light City." There was also a wooden pump which was famed for its wonderfully fine water and which has been replaced by a fountain.

Mrs. J. E. Beck, who is President of this club, was born in the house in

Mary Pride Jones
Mobile, Ala

which she now lives, it having been built by her Father, Capt. Randlette, a sea-captain of the Merchant Marine in 1875, and her Mother planted the handsome japonicas and hydrangeas in the front of their home. Mrs. Beck takes endless pride and interest in the Square and its surroundings. Her Christmas decorations on the front of her house, and yard, have caused much favorable comment and for two years the Alabama Power Company has used her illustration, in their year book. The japonica bushes are brilliantly lighted and six white standards lead from the steps, are entwined with southern smilax, the treatment of the front door having the effect of a stained glass window, with Christmas greetings.

This Club is a member of both city and state Federation of Clubs and they have a large lighted tree in the Square at Christmas. For this, they were awarded third prize in 1938 in the Lighted Tree Christmas Trail.

The Club motto: "He who turns the sod

To help a flower
Or leaf unfold, shares
In the work of God."

The emblem: Oak Tree

The slogan: "Eternal Vigilance"

Officers: Mrs. J.E. Beck, President
Mrs. Carter Luscher, vice-President,
Mrs. Mary Nausbaum, Treasurer
Mrs. W.R. Bickley, Historian,
Miss Tremlet Holzborn, Secretary.

Washington Square is located two blocks south of Government street turning on Charles or Chatham.

Bibliography: Personal observation and interview with Mrs. J.E. Beck, 1005 Augusta St. Mobile, Ala

Dec. 8, 1939
Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

File

(B)

Some Interesting Facts About Mobile

DEC 11 1939

Braille Library for the Blind

The Lions Club is sponsoring a federal project for printing literature for the Blind, in Braille, the work having started last week. The Lions are also working with the Association for the Blind, in their efforts in giving the ordinance passed concerning the use of white canes by the blind. The law would recognize white canes carried by blind persons, as an official emblem, and would provide protective measures in their use. The ordinance was drawn up after consulting similar measures in other cities. When completed, the books will be contributed to the Public Library.

Bibliography: Personal interview with a blind person and Register of Dec 6, 1939.

Mobile May Lose Relic

The sword which the late Admiral Semmes wielded in the war between the states, may soon be removed from this city. The Mayor has been requested by Oliver Semmes, of Pensacola, and grand-son of the Admiral, to relinquish the sword to him. He feels that the relic should be sent to the Battle Abbey, Richmond, Va., or to the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington where there are the swords of other great generals and admirals. The sword is said to be a fine example of the work of old English silversmiths and has for fifteen years hung in the museum of the Mobile Public Library. It is the hope of the city, that some day the home-place of Admiral Semmes at #802 Government, may be acquired and used as a museum, and the relic would be a most treasured addition. Mr. Semmes states that he will take the sword for his life-time and that after that, his son Oliver jr. can decide what disposition shall be made of it. Meantime, Miss Emma Roche, historian, Capt Leon Schwartz, a former mayor, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy are urging Mr. Semmes to allow the sword to remain in Mobile.

Bibliography : personal knowledge and Register of Nov. 23, 1939

DEC 11 1939

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(B)

Dec 8, 1939
Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

POINT CLEAR HOTEL SOLD

The sale of the historic hotel at Point Clear, on Mobile Bay's eastern shore (and so closely associated with Mobilians) to a new corporation has been recently announced. Extensive improvements of the grounds, including a new bulk-head along the shore, is planned.

The president of the corporation is Mr. E.A. Hirs, who is travelling auditor of Waterman Steamship Corporation, and Mr. L.M. Torbert, secretary to the president of Waterman's, with Miss Katherine Gray compose the three member directorate.

Director. On Oct. 22, 1939 they announced the appointment of the Point Clear Hotel, years ago, was known as the Grand Hotel and will again assume that name. It is not definitely known when the hotel was built but in possession of the present owners is a drawing of it made in 1854. The first building was destroyed by fire and the long, two story building now standing on Great Point Clear, was built in the latter part of the 19th century. It is constructed entirely of virgin pine cut before turpentine was general, and the main feature is the wide galleries on both floors. Since the first hotel, this has been a fashionable and famous watering place, especially of Mobilians even to the present day, and it attracted visitors from all over the South. The house has forty rooms and is said to be as sound today, as a dollar. Formerly the hotel served a clientele during the winter season and this policy will again be resumed. The announcement of this sale, which did not involve a huge sum, never the less has created more interest than any realty transaction in many months because of traditions attached to the property.

Bibliography: Press-Register Nov, 2, 1939

Location of Hotel is Baldwin County. To reach Point Clear travel state highway #16, or highway #3, follow county paved road to end of road.

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DEC 11 1939

Dec. 8, 1939
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala

MOBILE COUNTY ADOPTS MERIT SYSTEM

By an act of the Legislature on Sept, 14, 1939, Mobile County adopted Civil Service System of government.

A citizens committee appointed a personnel board, with Peter Bryce Hamilton as chairman, and Neander Cunningham, shipping agent, and Sidney Phillips member of the Murphy High School faculty, as a three member board to select a Director. On Oct, 23, 1939 they announced the appointment of Harry T. Pillans jr. He is a native Mobilian, the son of Harry T. Pillans, who was himself for two decades; a city official.

After graduating from Barton Academy, Mr. Pillans received an appointment to West Point. He served in the regular Army until 1920, when resigning with the rank of Major, he returned to Mobile and for seven and a half years was mathematics instructor at Murphy High School.

Offices have been fitted in the old Custom House, So. Royal Street, which was recently bought by the city. Here the Director is laying ground work for classification of approximately one thousand city and county employes who will be affected by the county-wide Civil Service System. It is expected that within ninety^{two} the system will be in full operation.

Bibliography:

Interview with Maj. Pillans
and S.H. Hendrix, city clerk.

DEC 16 1939

Dec., 15, 1939.
Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

INITIAL WORK LAUNCHED ON ARMY DEPOT PROJECT

Initial work on the \$8,700,000 army depot was launched to-day, Dec. 3, 1939, by William McClintock, associate civil engineer, and other workers, was announced by Major Dershimer, construction quarter master. Engineer McClintock is running base lines on the property after which a topographical survey is to be made. Actual construction will probably not start before April, for contracts must be let after bids are advertised. With the arrival of two more associate engineers, and two more air corps stenographers, the staff will number twelve, but fifty have been ordered here. The outline recently given to the press, gives a concrete picture of the immensity of the proposed air depot. This was given, in detail, by Col. R. D. Valiant, army real estate officer, and from it, one can easily see that the depot will be a town in itself. The main building, flight test and inspection hangar, repair dock, and equipment alone, will cost \$2,240,000.

The air depot will have its own gas system, fire and guard houses fire alarm, and water storage reservoirs. It is estimated that from one thousand to fifteen hundred men will be employed, and the pay-roll will be around \$10,000 a day.

The depot will occupy a site about two miles, beginning at a point adjoining Arlington Docks. It will run along the bay front and then back about two miles, taking it across Cedar Point Road. This will take in Bates Field, the municipal airport, and officials are now negotiating for a loan to build another airplane field for the city.

The depot will be used for the repair and maintenance of army airships in the Southeastern division of the United States and ships will be brought here from as far as the Canal Zone. A supply depot will be maintained, and ships will be brought here to be overhauled once a year.

Dec. 15, 1939
 Mary Pride Jones
 City Council Chamber
 Mobile, Ala.

Brigadier General Barton K. Yount, assistant engineer of U.S. Air Corps, made a quick tour of the air base recently, and before climbing back into the huge bomber, which soared away to the sunset, lauded the site and predicted that the depot will be expanded far beyond the initial \$8,700,000 to be spent in construction.

Between the brief span of two years, the amazingly big depot will be completed.

Major General H.H. Arnold, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps, and six other ranking officers, also visited the proposed air base and praised it as ideal for a repair and supply depot with handy resources of material, ample transportation facilities, a labor market, deep water near, and so located as to a difficult for any hostile force.

The U S Government has paid the city \$133,000 for the municipal airport, Bates Field, and it is planned to have a much larger better equipped airport here. No site has as yet been selected.

Bibliography: Personal knowledge and notes from the daily press.

Leaving Royal, drive west 14 blocks, turn south into Broad street and drive 24 blocks to Washington Ave which leads to Arlington Pier.

Dec. 15, 1939
Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

A Beautiful Garden

This is perhaps, the most elaborately planned and executed private garden in Mobile County. It is owned and was planned by Mrs. Rachel Heustis Paterson who comes of a family well known for their artistic taste and talent. She has travelled extensively for years, and her house interior, and its surroundings are most interesting in detail with antiques, oriental rugs, oil paintings and other valuable and handsome furnishings.

The garden of three acres, and in three divisions, each with some special feature, is surrounded by a brick wall eight feet high, and tall reeds, has flagstone walks through-out, one long driveway, and a number of single and double gates. These gates are of wood and all have an inset in the center of each, of iron lace, about one foot square. Iron grill work is used in all of the divisions, in some way. Leaving the back hall door of the main house, which is of Italian design, one steps on to a raised terrace, the floor of which is of pink Georgian marble. Overhead, purple and yellow bignonia vines fall from the roof top and even the chimneys, over the eaves. To the right is a long loggia, trimmed with iron grill work, and through which grow coral and other vines, and here are many potted plants and ferns. At the side, were two cumquat trees full of yellow fruit, between them a large poinsettia bush, making a bright color scheme. To the left of the house and leading from the second story was an outside stairway, with iron railing and with three landings, on each of which was a low pottery urn filled with palms. The two story servants' house, of the same architectural plan as the main house, also features the outside stairway with iron railing and palms and vines. In this first garden is a fountain and a pond, in which are numbers of water and lotus lilies and

Mary Bride Jones
Mobile, Ala.

low reeds along the edges. Between this and the second garden, is a pergola, covered with coral vines. On the right side of it the owner has recently built an aviary and already has different kinds of song birds with a plan to add many more. The second part of the garden, some larger than the first, has a great variety of trees, shrubs, plants and in the center, a circular rose bed. Here are bridal wreath, camelia-japonica, sweet shrub, magnolia frascati, bright red Turk's caps, Confederate jasmine, azalea and others too numerous to mention, besides numbers of flowering peach and pear, mimosa, Japan plum, quince trees-every thing known to, and loved by the deep South. At the far end is a large gaze ball and a bird bath. At the entrance of the third and largest section, is an eight foot, tall, four square, ornamental piece of iron grill work, over which trails a Lady Bankshire rose and under which is a small, raised stone bridge. In this portion of the grounds are the larger trees and bushes of every kind. There is a lovely rock garden, in the center of which, is an overflowing artesian well which runs through out the entire garden through rock beds. In some of these, are growing lotus lillies. Around the rock garden are narcissus, daffodils, iris and a large cactus bush. Here, birds find sanctuary, even sea-gulls and snipe have been seen. All through the gardens are ornamental cedar and other trees and one the most striking things was a tall gum tree on which a few bright red leaves remained and also sweet gum balls and trailing in the tree was a silver moon climbing rose. There may be found here, it seems, every variety of flower, shrub, tree and everything in the plant world, to enjoy.

Mrs. Paterson frequently lends her garden for charity garden parties and pilgrimages and it is well worth seeing especially in spring when it is so gloriously lovely.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mrs. Paterson and a visit to the garden. Location West Government Street #House #1673.

Leaving Royal street go West House on left side

(1)

669-Words

Benjamin D. Baker
Federal Writers' Program
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

Mobile
County

Nov 29, 1939.

MOBILE WOMAN IS AUTHOR OF NOVEL
BASIS OF SUCCESSFUL STAGE PLAY

A Mobile woman is the author of a Novel from which was dramatized the play in which Walter Whitesides was starring in Chicago in 1925. The play was "Sakura" and was adapted from the "Breath of the Gods," the novel of Japanese life by Sidney McCall, the pen name of Mrs. Mary McNeill Fenellosa. The "Breath of the Gods" was proclaimed by critics at the time of its publication among the best novels of Japanese life in the English language.

After an absence of many years in Japan and in New York and Chicago, Mrs. Fenellosa returned to Mobile to look after her aged mother. Mrs. Fenellosa was known in the literary world as Sidney McCall and is the author of a number of novels, the scene of several being laid in her beloved Japan, where she made her home for many years. The two best known of her books of Japanese life are "The Breath of the Gods" and the "Dragon Painter." "The Dragon Painter" was successfully produced in the moving pictures with Sessue Hawa kaya in the leading role. The play created a great deal of favorable comment at the time.

During her residence at "Kobinata" her picturesque Spring Hill home, Mrs. Fenellosa wrote a number of novels and plays. Her novel, "Truth Dexter," with the Gulf coast for its setting, was written at Spring Hill. "The Stirrup Latch" has for its setting Spring Hill and the title was inspired by the old-fashioned stirrup latch on the front gate.

Mrs. Fenellosa's ambition was to return to Spring Hill and devote her time to the writings of plays.

What family + who was Mrs. Fenellosa before her marriage? When is "Kobinata"? Her Spring Hill home located?

Mobile Woman is Author of Novel
Basis of successful Stage Play.

Benjamin D. Baker
Mobile, Ala.

Nov 29, 1939.

One of the most prodigious pieces of literary work that Mrs. Fenellosa had accomplished, and a piece of work about which Mobilians seemed to know little, is the editing and preparing for publication of the book of her late husband, Professor Ernest Fenellosa's "Epochs of Chinese and Japanese Art." It was published in 1913 in two large volumes by W. Hineman of London and is regarded by art critics as one of the most valuable books on Oriental art and promises to be a permanent monument to its brilliant author.

The late Professor Fenellosa was one of the organizers of the University of Tokio, where he held the chair of Philosophy and political economy at the time of his death in 1909. During his residence in Japan he collected his data for his book.

So highly did the Japanese esteem him that when his death occurred in London a delegation from Japan came to Mrs. Fenellosa and requested that his remains be interred in Kyoto, Japan. He received a royal interment there and a shrine was erected to his memory. There are two monuments to Americans in Tokio, the shrine to Lafcadio Hern in Tokio, for his contribution to Japanese literature, and the shrine to Professor Fenellosa in Kyoto for his contribution to Japanese art and culture.

After Professor Fenellosa's death, Mrs. Fenellosa spent four years traveling all over the world, collecting material to fill in the gaps in her husband's book. "Epochs of Chinese and Japanese Art." The understanding meant research work in the famous art museums in the Orient, London and other parts of the world. She had the services of a number of Japanese scholars at her command, as well as art scholars throughout the civilized world.

Mobile Woman is Author of Novel
Basis of Successful Stage Play.

Benjamin D. Baker
Mobile, Ala.

Nov 29, 1939.

When the book was completed, W. Hineman, the largest publisher in London, offered to publish it. The book is still in great demand and can be found in every complete art library. After the publication of her book, Mrs. Fenellosa made her home in New York. It is interesting to note that she was among a small band of women writers in that city who started a Women's Little Theatre.

References from
Personal Investigation
of records and from citizens.

File
B

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

November 22, 1939.

The following excerpts from letters of Fredrika Bremer were written to her family while she was in Mobile the house guest of Mrs. Octavia LeVert and give an intimate and unusual viewpoint of Mrs. LeVert, her home, her friends, and most particularly of a stranger in Mobile.

Miss Bremer, a Sweedish writer was born in Finland in 1801 and died in Stockholm in 1865. She visited most of the principal cities in America and her observations after her visit to the United States in 1849, were translated and published in two volumes in 1854 under the name "Homes in the New World".

New Orleans, Jan. 8.

"Tomorrow I shall accompany Mr. and Mrs. G. - to Mobile, Alabama, whither I am invited by Mrs. W. LeV. - whom I have often heard spoken of as a very charming and much celebrated "belle" of the North and South of the United States.

We shall travel by steam boat into the gulf of Mexico, on the banks of which Mavilla, now Mobile, is situated.

Mobile, Ala. Jan. 8

Summer, summer, perfect summer weather my little Agatha, Oh! that could, by some magical power, transport you to this air, or this air to you, for it would make you strong and happy. Ever since Jan. 4, I have been in a sort of astonishment at such air, and such a delicious sensation as it occasions. Mrs. LeV. met me in her carriage. I had heard so much of Mrs. LeV's vivacity and grace that I was surprised to find evident traces of sorrow in her countenance. She had suffered, two years ago, blow after blow, in the death of her brother and her two children, and has withdrawn herself from society, the ornament of which, she had hitherto been.

Mary Pride Jones
 City Chamber Council
 Mobile, Ala.

Nov. 22, 1939

Yesterday she drove me to a beautiful promenade through a magnolia forest, along the shore of the Mexican Gulf. The magnolia is a laurel with evergreen foliage of a dark color; it is irregular in form and its head is round and rich. Thick masses of moss hang like veils over its knotted branches, amid alcoves of dark foliage. It is not an extremely poetical tree and when it shoots forth its snow-white fragrant flowers it seems to recall some beautiful poem of Lord Byron's. I rested, breathed, enjoyed, in deep harmony with the scene around me, and the amiable young lady by my side. In the evening I went to the theatre where a box had been placed at my disposal and saw an amusing little piece called "Jenny Lind in Heidelberg".

From 7th to 12th July. Beautiful quiet days! I like Mobile, and the people of Mobile, and the weather of Mobile, and every thing in Mobile; I flourish in Mobile. I go out every morning to a camp of Choctaw Indians just outside the city, for it amuses me to see the life of these wild people. In order to reach this camp I must walk up Government Street, the principal street of the city, a broad, straight alley of beautiful villas, surrounded by trees and garden plots; the most beautiful orange trees, covered with fruit shine in the sun, that beautiful beneficent southern sun, shines here all day long.

The camp consists of thirteen bark huts, something like our booths at fairs, but always open at the side during the day. Within the huts have a very poverty stricken appearance. The whole business and anxiety of the inmates seems to be catering for the stomach. This morning they breakfasted on oranges, a lively scene, these red people eating that splendid fruit on the edge of the splendid sun-bright forest. Fire is always burning in front of the dark huts, and old, shriveled women sit by the fire, sometimes

Mary Pride Jones
 City Council Chamber
 Mobile, Ala

stirring the contents of the kettle, and sometimes warming their skinny hands. The children, who sit in groups around the fire, or leap about the green-sward playing ball, are handsome, full of animation and have beautiful dark eyes.

The young women are very much ornamented with armlets and necklaces, and have a deal of painted finery on their cheeks. One meets continually Indian women on the streets, on their way to sell their large baskets of light-wood billets in the city. The men at this ^{time} are sent hunting in the higher mountain district of Alabama. These Indians are praised for their integrity and the exactness with which they keep a promise. Further up the Alabama River, great numbers of Indians are still met with, in a savage condition; but a great portion of Alabama is still in savage state. The state is young, having only obtained its Constitution in 1817, and it has the institution of slavery—the institution least conducive to spiritual and temporal advancement. Even Mobile has its slave market, which I visited, but found there only a few mulatto girls who remained unsold.

I have been repeatedly to the theatre and met Miss D. a most promising actress at Mrs. Le V's and others of her company. They appear well-bred people and as modest in dress as any of the young Puritans of New England. It is evident that actors in the New World take a higher position in educated society than they have yet done in Europe. They do not here form a caste.

I have also seen at Mrs. LeV's a great number of the grandees of Mobile and more lovely ladies I have never met with. Again I am compelled to feel that anything more agreeable than a lovely refined American woman, is scarcely to be found on the face of the earth.

Rail-roads, steam-boats, schools, academies have begun to diffuse light and vigorous life within the slave state, the white lady citizens of which have, here

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Cham ber

and there, still a custom of seeking for higher life's enjoyment by rubbing their gums with snuff, which produces a sort of intoxication very stimulating to the feelings and the conversation likewise.

The fascinating ladies of Mavilla must bear the same relation to the snuff taking ones that the magnolia flower does to the flower of the henbane!

Octavia Le Vert will be always united in my soul with the remembrance of the most delicious breezes and odors of the South, with the verdure of magnolia forests, with the fresh roar of the Mexican Gulf, with the sun and the song of birds in the orange groves of Mobile.

Adieu, beautiful kind Mobile!

Bibliography

The Homes of the New World Vol.11
Ex libris Nellie Pétus Cannon

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Dec. 1, 1939
Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

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The Federated Garden Clubs of Mobile

A mass meeting was held at the Woman's Club House, Mar, 13, 1930, for the purpose of organizing a Mobile Garden Club. Thirty-five flower lovers responded to the call. Mrs Millard Kirkbride, Chairman of the committee, called the meeting to order and requested that Mrs. C.S. Shawhan serve as chairman pro. tem. The assembly proceed with the permanent organization and elected officers as follows: Dr. J.T Wright, Pres. and Mrs. Bullock, Secretary.

Thus began the garden club movement which constantly broadened in scope, and finally on Apr. 3, 1935 the Federation of Clubs was organized. Its officers are: Pres. Mrs. D.P. Bestor, first vice-Pres. Mrs. R.F. Woods, second vice-Pres. Mrs. W.F. Yuille, Rec. Sec. Mrs. A.B. Frese, Cor. Sec. Miss Velma Dumas, Treas. Mrs. J.W. Black, Historian, Miss Isabel Shepard.

The object of the Federation is to promote gardens in Mobile County, to encourage civic beauty, to discourage unsightly objects on the highway, to protect native flowers and shrubs and to promote flower shows. Some of the members attended the annual course in horticulture at Auburn. On their calendar are noted some of the most prominent lecturers on town planning, landscape architects, and on all related subjects.

The garden clubs have done a wonderful work in promoting a spirit of pride in the appearance of homes and gardens the civic value of which, is of inestimable value. They promote garden tours, local and elsewhere, a Spring Flower Show annually, and are members of the "Lighted Christmas Tree Trail" and present a float in the Carnival parade each year. This parade, in two years, has become one of the most attractive and beautiful features of Mardi Gras, and last year their float "Marie in Her Rose Garden" was winner of the first prize of \$150.00. They also sponsor a japonica-camelia display every season, -non competitive- and last year three hundred blossoms

Mary Pride Jones

of from twenty five to fifty varieties of color were shown in Washington, D.C. In the South, the camelia is a most beloved bloom, and is our most aristocratic flower, lovely, exotic, ranging from rose red, to pure white, and blooms only in winter. Probably the largest commercial grower of the camelia, in the United States is T. Kyono, native of Japan, who collects American antiques, and who has twenty acres of camelia plants and sells 150,000 seedlings annually.

The Federation has opened a Garden Center Club on the fourth floor of L. Hammel Dry Goods store, on Royal St.

Here they have fitted up an attractive place with flower magazines, scrap books and each day members send fresh flowers. The Center is in charge of Miss McAleer, who is there from 10 to 12 noon, and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

She has a guest book and in November had over two hundred flower loving visitors, thirty eight of whom, were from far distant states. Miss McAleer is delighted to give practical suggestions on flower culture, to make soil tests, and keeps posted on a blackboard the names of plants and when to plant. In January she will inaugurate a flower exchange. Flowers are distributed to the city hospitals by the clubs. One year they gave to the Association for the Blind, the Braille edition of Readers Digest, and half of the proceeds of a wild flower show were to help in the purchase of an X ray machine for the Tuberculosis Sanatorium. The Cottage Hill Club which specializes wild flowers, took second prize in a national contest of Mass. Horticultural Magazine. with their year book. These year books were on exhibit in the Mass. Horticulture Society, the largest library of its kind in America.

With their talent for beautification, the Federation has pledged their time and efforts to make Mobile a perennially beautiful city, and Spring In Mobile, with all its gardens a riot of color, is a rare and glorious season. It is estimated that there ^{were} last season 70,000 flower disciples who came to visit this quaint old city.

Reference

Interview Miss McAleer
Mrs. J. E. Beck, Pres. Washington Square
Garden Club.
Mrs. C. S. Shawhan

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Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala

November 17, 1939

The John Little Smith House
Washington Square

Occupying a city block, facing historic Washington Square, and set in the midst of magnificent old oak trees, magnolias, crepe myrtle, and sweet olive bushes, is the former home of the Hon. John Little Smith one of the most eminent of this city's jurists. He built this two story frame, nine rooms house showing French influence in design and plan, in 1869. After his death it was still kept as a home by his widow until her death in 1923 when it was left to her son Chancellor Thomas H. Smith who lived there until his death in 1930. A year ago the site was bought by the Manager of Mobile Chamber of Commerce Mr. R.D. Hays.

John Little Smith was born in Elizabeth N.J. March 29, 1822, and came to Alabama at the age of fifteen years. He entered the University of Alabama graduating in 1847, and later attended the law school of Harvard and was admitted to the practice of law in the Supreme Court of Alabama. In 1852 he went to France for the study of international law at L'Academie de Droit, Paris and continuing his studies at the University of Paris graduated and received the diploma "de Licencié en Droit", an honor never before bestowed on an American. He then returned to Mobile and became of her most distinguished members of the bar.

Mr. Smith married in 1854 Virginia, the daughter of Thomas and Emma Toulmin Herndon and went to Paris for study for three years after which they returned to Mobile to reside permanently. Here their home was the center of lavish hospitality and a gathering place for notables. Some of their beautiful china, glass, jewelry and valuable antiques are in possession of Tremlet Holzborn, grand daughter, who lives near by. Mr. and Mrs. Hays have, in restoring the place, kept intact the appearance of it from the outside and as much in the interior as was possible. Approaching by a brick walk one is impressed by the heavy white panelled door, with its etched window lights and

Mary Pride Jones

the old brass bell plate. The portico, which is uncovered, is tiled and enclosed by iron railing. The writer was met and greeted at the door by a small, neat negro maid with "come in Miss and would you care to rest your hat?" The front hall is a small square and to the left are two large double parlors 22 x 24 and the floor boards are of the same length-that is, they have not been pieced but made the dimension of the rooms. This is said by architects to be remarkable. There are two marble mantels, simple in design but the fireplaces are unusual. They have the old fashioned metal "summer front" screens but in the center is an oval mirror said to have cost \$70.00. The ceilings are beautiful and were left as found being of a rich wine color, and have the effect of being heavily embossed, while the side walls are re-finished with a gold paper discovered in an old closed shop. In the back parlor or the present dining room is a mirror reaching from the floor to the high ceiling. This and a duplicate mirror in the hall are thirteen and a half feet high by fifty nine inches wide and came from the old Emmanuel home. Between the two rooms is an electric lighting fixture which has a most interesting background. This was found by the present owner in a latticed closet and in good order. It had been the house fan with two blades and run by water power. The frame is a brass tripod with three branches which have been ingeniously mounted by electric bulbs and stands six feet tall making a striking feature of the room. Also in the dining room is the French law library of Mr. Smith encased in a handsome mahogany case. The stairway is not in view from the front hall but runs down the back and under it was the entrance to the wine cellar-the banister is of mahogany.

One very unusual feature of the house that brings much comment is that there is a double door upstairs.

Opening a door to the right of the dining room the home is found to be completely modernistic, the kitchen, baths, bed-rooms as well as the side portico have been added. All windows are treated with iron lace.

Mrs. Hays, a Kentucky woman, is a delightful person and a visitor feels that the atmosphere

Mary Pride Jones

of this lovely old home has been sustained by her in retaining much of the decorations and ornaments in it. Mrs. Hays' Mother was a visitor in the home and speaking of being from Natchez said that having lived there only twenty years was a comparative stranger! Leading off from the "big house" was originally a log frame building in which were the servants quarters, the butler's pantry, (burglar proof) and the kitchen. This building has been removed, remodeled and is the home of another family. Other sites have been sold and soon the square will be filled with modern homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Hays have had many visitors and they take pleasure in showing the points of interest and the history of the Smith House.

Bibliography

- Thomas Owen's History of Alabama,
- Personal observation,
- Personal interview with Mrs. Nellie Percy
niece of Mrs. Smith
with Tremlet Holzborn, grand daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Smith and with Mr. and Mrs. Hays.

NOV 27 1939

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Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala

November 22, 1939

South's Problems Hearing by Congressmen that tracts of timber are yearly
One of a series of hearings on the nation's resources, the first of its kind
held in Mobile, was heard from November 13th. through November 17th by a
congressional committee on forestry, and clearly indicated that the small
land owner and farmer should know about correct and modern methods. The two
day session was devoted to present and prospective conditions-the whole for-
estry subject-along with present practices affecting timber supplies, water-
shed protection, flood control and other angles. Importance of Mobile hearings
was emphatically indicated by the large number of industrial leaders at-
tending from all over the South.

Almost every type of forestry problem was dis-
cussed before the committee which leaves our section with a valuable knowl-
edge of this important industry. There were six committee members in the
group, in addition to Congressman Bankhead were: Rep. Hampton P. Fulmer, South
Carolina, vice-chairman, Senators Ellison D. Smith, So. Carolina, D. Worth Clark,
Idaho, Wm. J. Bulow, So. Dakota, Charles L. McNary, Oregon and Rep. Wall Doxey, Miss.
Walter M. Pierce, Oregon, Daniel A. Reed, New York, and Harry L. Englebright Calif.

There were thirty three witness-
es who spoke at the hearing and Dr. Walter B. Jones, Director of conservation
urged; the growing of timber as a crop, better fire protection, managed cutting
of new timber, growth, and the use of forests as conservation agencies for soil
and flood control. Other speakers asked for fire protection for Southern
forests, regional planning for future government price-fixing on timber and
stress on rehabilitation of hardwood forests was discussed.

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

In some parts of the South it was stated that tracts of timber are yearly increasing in value because of selective cutting and proper methods, while in others figures show decline of Southern forests and loss by soil erosion. These two trends are conflicting, and a need of a successful forestry program is indicated. Congressman Fulmer remarked that lack of money, not sense, is responsible for Southern problems. This may probably be true to some extent but evidence has shown that many farmers and landowners are following a slipshod method of forestry. Many of the small farmers of Alabama cannot undertake a good reforestation program without government help, but reading and study of bulletins from our experiment station at Auburn would reveal wonders to them.

Senator Clark was enthusiastic about the resources of Alabama. "If we in Idaho with nothing but cactus and sage brush to start with, can produce valuable farm land, what can't you do in Alabama with all your natural wealth?" he exclaimed. The visiting senators and representatives who came from such scattered points as New York, Idaho, and Oregon were "sold" on the Southland and told Mr. Bankhead that they were amazed by what their studies of Mobile had shown. They especially pointed to the possibilities of forestry industry here and our coast as a national playground. Each member expressed admiration for the Gulf coastlands and questions on development of Dauphin Island, after the proposed bridge is built, were pointed.

The task of planning the best legislation to benefit the Southern forestry is now up to the congressional group, since the situation has been so fully presented. With the knowledge the committee gained through its field trip and hearings as to the forest land in Alabama—good and bad—they should be equipped to draft and recommend legislation that will solve problems of, and to a general improvement of present conditions.

Mary Fride Jones
 City Council Chamber
 Mobile, Ala.

Mary Fride Jones
 City Council Chamber
 Mobile, Ala.

Nov. 13, 1939

Names of officers of the Conservation Department are as follows:

W. B. Jones, Director,

Brooks Toler, State Forester,

Ben Morgan, Director Fish and Game

W. G. Lunsford, " State Parks,

Extension Service, Alabama Polytechnic Institute,

P. O. Davis, Director

Howard Gray, President Alabama Farm Bureau

Charles J. Brockaway, Mobile County Agent,

Bibliography

Interview with

Dr. H. P. Loding,
 Mobile Register, numbers
 Nov. 13th., 17th., inc. 1939

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

Nov. 15, 1939

- Supplement - A Visit to the John Little Smith Home

Leaving Royal street go west on Government street to Chatham, - turn south for two blocks. The home faces East on Chatham street, Augusta st. on the south, George street on North and Palmetto street on West.

Mrs. J. A. Pettes,
Care Dr. Webb,
Livingston,
Alabama.

NOV 27 1939

Miss Jones
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

The following letter was written by Willie Patton, aged fifteen, son of
Sister, Mrs. Theodora Patton Pettus. He was a graduate, later, of the
and had promise of a brilliant future, but in early manhood was
The original is in perfect condition, was written in a legible way and is
in possession of Mrs. Nellie Pettus Cannon who is a daughter of Mrs. Patton
to whom the letter is addressed. The Pettus family is well known socially
and politically in Alabama.

Mrs. J.A. Pettus,
Care Dr. Webb,
Livingston,
Alabama.

Mobile, Ala. April 12, 1868.

Dear Sister:

I have sad news Alabama. Mobile has fallen and we are now
under Yankee dominion. I will give you full an account of the capture as I am
able to give at the present and when I have another opportunity to send a
letter (Bob takes this out) I will endeavor to give you more particulars.

The last of the
Confederate army left the city before daybreak this morning, followed by
all the steam-boats including the blockade runners and by the gun-boats
which "brought up the rear". The garrisons of Battery Huger and Battery
Spauld escaped with the rest.

About 11 o'clock Major Blough, Caleb Price, and Dr. Ketchum went in a
carriage with the white flag, to meet the Yankees who were landing troops at
the toll gate on the Bay road, and to negotiate the terms of surrender. They
were followed soon afterwards by C. P. Gage and three other gentlemen also
going down for the same purpose.

At 2 1/2 o'clock as I was walking out on the gallery I saw some
soldiers dressed in blue going along Royal St. I called to one and she said
that they were the Yankees who had come to hoist the flag of the dis-
United States over Mobile and I ran after them and followed them till they

Mary Pride Jones
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

November 22, 1939

The following letter was written by Willie Fulton, aged fifteen years, to his Sister, Mrs. Theodora Fulton Pettus. He was a graduate, later, of Washington and Lee, and had promise of a brilliant future but in early manhood was drowned. The original is in perfect condition, was written in a legible way, and is in possession of Mrs. Nellie Pettus Cannon who is a daughter of Mrs. Pettus to whom the letter is addressed. The Pettus family is well known socially and politically in Alabama.

Mobile, Ala, April 12, 1865.

Dear Sister:

I have sad news to tell you. Mobile has fallen and we are now under Yanky dominion. I will give as full an account of the capture as I am able to give at the present, and when I have another opportunity to send a letter (Bob takes this out) I will endeavor to give you more particulars.

The last of the

Confederate army left the city before daybreak this morning, followed by all the steam-boats, including the blockade runners and by the gun-boats which "brought up the rear". The garrisons of Battery Huger and battery Tracy escaped with the rest.

About 11 o'clock Major Slough, Caleb Price, and Dr. Ketchum went in a carriage with the white flag, to meet the Yanks who were landing troops at the toll gate on the bay road, and to negotiate the terms of surrender. They were followed soon afterwards by C.P Gage and three other gentlemen also going down for the same purpose.

At 2 1 / 2 o'clock as I was walking out on the gallery I saw some soldiers dressed in blue going along Royal St. I called Ma and she said that they were the Yankees who had come to hoist the flag of the dis-United States over Mobile and I ran after them and followed them till they

stopped at the Battle House, where they went in, and having eaten dinner they went on top of the house and hoisted the gridiron flag on the flag staff. As soon as they hoisted it they took off their caps and gave three cheers "for the capture of Mobile." The men were marines and there eleven of them. They walked along Royal st. and stopped at the Battle House without directions from any one at all. They were perfectly unconcerned while they were marching through the city as if they had been here a month.

Just before they raised the hated gridiron Mayor Slough returned with a Yanky officer in the carriage. They stopped in front of the Custom House and Mayor S.--made a short speech to the crowd which had gathered around; telling the citizens to go to their homes and to behave quietly and to attend to their business as quietly as possible. The Mayor then went with the Yankee to the Manassas Club room where each got a cigar and returned to the carriage smoking. They drove down the bay to meet the other carriage and some of the accursed Yanky officers. About an hour afterwards one of the Yanky generals accompanied with his staff rode along Conception St. He was followed by two carriages and an ambulance filled with Yankey officers among them the renegade Faragut. The despicable gridiron was then raised over the Market. In a little while the officers were riding all about the city. As one group passed by me I gave them three hearty groans. At about 4 1 / 2 o'clock the advance of the Yanky army reached the city; and at the same time one of their boats, the "Gen. Banks", arrived at the foot of Govt. St. As soon as the negroes and some white people saw the boat at (at the boat at) at the wharf they rushed down the street shouting and hurrahing. I am so excited
They shook hands with the detestable Yankees and were invited by them to go on the boat. Soon the deck was crowded with the colored "gemmin of African scent", and their white livered bretheren. Giddie Gee and I walked down to look

at her but we wouldn't go on the same wharf that she was at.

She brought on her Gen. Granger and staff. About 6 o'clock another regiment of the house-burners marched through Mobile to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." They came in very quietly with the poorest band in Yankeedom; for each band consisted of 10 fifers and 10 drummers. They had no brass instruments with them when the first of the thieves came. At about 8 o'clock to-night another re-inforcement of the Abolish came in. There was one or two brigades this time. They came in yelling with their band (real brass bands this time, no mistake) playing Hail Columbia, Yanky Doodle, and Columbia is the Gem of the Ocean. They were singing something as they marched along, but as Ma wouldn't let me go out in the street I couldn't hear distinctly what they said, from the house. About an hour afterwards some more of the wretches came in; and their number this time was much larger than previously. These came yelling more loudly than the others. I am sorry to say that they were cheered by some people on the streets.

The negroes were very glad to meet them. They shook hands with the Yanks telling them that they were glad they had come, for they (the negroes) had been "waiting for a long time for their time to come." Mr. Hall (the one that lives on Monroe Street) shook hands with first Yanky officer that came.

Pa doesn't know how to bear up under misfortune. He takes it very very hard. But we are all hopeful and expect the French before Autumn.

Give my love to all my friends and relations in Livingston.

Give my love to Et. sure.

I remain,

Most affectionately

your brother

Willie F...

Reference,

Mrs. Nellie Pettus Cannon,

1004 Palmetto St.